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### **PENCE EXPRESSES DISAPPOINTMENT AS SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAW** *Only House Plaintiff Calls Decision "Dark Day in History of Liberty"*

**Washington, Dec 10, 2003** - WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Mike Pence expressed extreme disappointment today with the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling that upheld the campaign finance law passed last year by Congress. Pence was the only member of the U.S. House to serve as a plaintiff in the lawsuit, claiming that the law was a violation of freedom of speech and other constitutionally protected rights.

"This is a dark day in the history of liberty and the Supreme Court. The ruling in *McConnell v. FEC* will be remembered alongside the worst self-inflicted wounds in the history of the Court. Not since the *Dred Scott* case in 1857 and *Roe v. Wade* in 1973 has the Supreme Court made a more dramatic departure from the ideals of the American people," said Pence.

"Our founders could not have been clearer when they drafted the First Amendment to the United States Constitution," said Pence. "It mandates that 'Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech.' Today the United States Supreme Court abandoned that mandate by upholding nearly all of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002. The ninety-page statute, which will be implemented by thousands of pages of complex regulations, abandons the obligation of the Supreme Court to see to it that Congress make no law abridging the freedom of speech.

"I was honored to stand with Senator Mitch McConnell, the ACLU and numerous freedom-loving organizations in challenging this law in court," said Pence. "We owe it to future

generations of Americans to work to correct this historic error. I pledge myself to continue to work with freedom-loving Americans, on the left and the right, until we restore the luster and integrity of the First Amendment."

The Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 (often referred to as "McCain-Feingold") imposes numerous restrictions on the ability of ordinary citizens to pool their resources in citizen groups to amplify their voices on public issues. The most offensive aspect of this law upheld by the Court is the ban on "electioneering communications," defined as mentioning a candidate's name in a broadcast communication during the months prior to an election. By upholding this ban, the Court prohibits liberal and conservative public-interest groups from telling the public where candidates stand on such vital issues as health care, the environment, abortion, cloning, euthanasia, taxation, and the war on terror.

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